

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

In claim 16, line 1, "The system of claim 1" has been changed to –
- - The system of claim 14 - -.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 14-25 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
4. U.S. Patent No. 6,625,687 Erten et al. in view of U.S Publication 2005/0123053 to Cooper et al. are references closest to the claimed invention. Erten et al. disclose a system separating components in individual signals, comprising: a single sensor configured to acquire concurrently a plurality of individual signals generated by a plurality of source; a buffer configured to store an input non-negative matrix representing the plurality of individual signals. Cooper et al. disclose K columns of the matrix being the basis vectors of the factorization and the K rows of the matrix being the coefficient representations of the columns of the similarity matrix

onto this basis. However, Erten et al. in combination with Cooper et al. do not teach the input non-negative matrix including columns representing features of the plurality of individual signals at different instances in time; and means for factoring the first non-negative matrix into a set of non-negative bases matrices and a non-negative weight matrix, the set of bases matrices and the weight matrix representing the plurality of individual signals at the different instances of time; and including all of the other limitations in the respective independent claims.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carol S. Tsai whose telephone number is (571) 272-2224. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ramos-Feliciano S. Eliseo can be reached on (571) 272-7925. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

April 14, 2008
Art Unit 2857

/Carol S Tsai/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2857